NEWS from

DENNIS HANSBERGER

San Bernardino County Supervisor, Third District



For Immediate Release: December 20, 2005

Contact: Kathi Payne (909) 387-0297 kpayne@sbcounty.gov

SUPERVISOR HANSBERGER LOOKS FORWARD TO COMPLETION OF SAN TIMOTEO PROJECT

One of the final steps before completion of the San Timoteo Creek Project is set to begin, as the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors today approved a contract for the construction of the Beaumont Avenue Bridge in the Loma Linda area. The \$1.6 million contract was awarded to Olivas Valdez, Inc., and the board also established a contingency fund of \$163,432 for the project.

The previous bridge at Beaumont Avenue was removed during construction of the San Timoteo Creek, and subsequently has created area traffic problems between the City of Loma Linda and the City of Redlands, and has removed a secondary access for public safety responders when dealing with emergencies.

"San Timoteo Creek has been one of the most demanding issues for me during my years in office," said Hansberger. "It is gratifying to see a project of this magnitude, one with such an important impact on the region, finally reaching completion."

The need for increased flood control and the protection of life and property is the primary purpose for the project, but other benefits include the creation of a wildlife corridor and a recreational trail system. The completion of the project will also trigger a cancellation of mandatory flood insurance, which in many cases has quadrupled the cost of coverage required for homeowners in the downstream flood plain.

The first phase of the San Timoteo Creek project began in 1991 as collaboration between the San Bernardino County Flood Control District and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). The final, and current, phase began in 1996 with construction starting in 2002. With final touches being wrapped up, the Creek project will be completed by April 2006.

"We have had many partners in this enormous project. The Cities of Loma Linda, Redlands, San Bernardino and Colton all have contributed much to the success of this endeavor," continued Hansberger.

To date the project has cost about \$90 million, with the Federal government bearing 75 percent of that amount, and San Bernardino County the remaining 25 percent.

--30--